

SCIENTIFIC MEETING
October 29th, 1937

(901 So Hudson)

Total attendance: 40

Guests: Miss Burleigh	Paul Levy
Dr. Valens	Dr. Stewart & guest
Dr. Gassman	Miss Mohr
Mr. Beckenridge	Miss Adams
Dr. Carolyn Fisher	Mrs. Sniffen
Miss Fraenkel	<i>Mr. Havel and staff</i>

Dr. Simmel presiding:

Communications: Dr. Simmel had received a letter from Dr. French, appointing him as member of the training committee. - ~~At request~~ By request a report had been made to the Internatl. Psa. Assn. on the activities, aims and achievements of the Study Group. -- Congratulations were extended to Dr. Ruth Tolman on her attaining her Ph.D. degree at Berkeley.

Speaker: Dr. Ruth Tolman

Subject: "A Comparative Psychological Study of Repeating Criminals and Single Offenders"

In this investigation fifty male criminals whose records showed at least three prior offenses were compared with fifty first offenders to whom probation was granted. All were of the white race, between twenty and forty years of age, guilty of crimes committed against property. All were studied while in custody awaiting hearing on probation and sentence.

Certain psychological characteristics were selected for study which might be expected either on a priori or psychiatric grounds to show a close association with criminal conduct. In order to make possible some rough quantitative measure of the characteristics studied, the following techniques were adopted: (1) Responses given during a psychological interview were classified or "rated" quantitatively, as expressing attitudes on fifteen items. These indicated feelings of dissatisfaction, discontent, or hostility with regard to the community, work, individuals, or groups of individuals in the environment of these subjects. The ratings showed high reliability coefficients with those of two other raters on the same material. (2) Intelligence tests were administered. (3) An attempt was made to discover by an indirect method (a modification of the "Self-Ordinary-Ideal-Test") the degree of feeling of difference or separation of the prisoners both from their ideal and from their fellows. (4) Superficial ratings at the time of interview and (5) such sociological data as were available were compared for the two groups.

On the fifteen items sampling attitudes toward the community, work, the political regime, associates, parents and families, and the feeling of remoteness from their own aims and ideals, some statistically significant differences indicated in the

(901 St Hudson)

Local attendance: 31

Paul Levy
Mr. Stewart & Guest
Miss Lohr
Miss Adams
Mrs. Miller
Mr. [unclear]

Guests: Miss [unclear]
Dr. Valens
Dr. [unclear]
Dr. [unclear]
Miss [unclear]

Dr. [unclear] presiding

Dr. [unclear] had received a letter from [unclear] asking him to be a member of the [unclear] committee. [unclear] report had been made to the [unclear] committee on the activities, aims and achievements of the [unclear] group. Congratulations were extended to Dr. [unclear] on his [unclear] for his degree at [unclear].

Speaker: Dr. [unclear]

Subject: "A Comparative Psychological Study of [unclear] and [unclear]"

In this investigation fifty male criminals whose records showed at least three prior offenses were compared with fifty white males, between twenty and forty years of age, guilty of crimes committed against property. All were housed with in [unclear] waiting hearing on probation and sentence.

Certain psychological characteristics were selected for study which might be expected either on a genetic or pathologic grounds to show a close association with criminal conduct. In order to make possible some rough quantitative measure of the characteristics studied, the following techniques were adopted: (1) Responses given during a psychological interview were classified on a "rated" quantitative, as expressing attitudes on fifteen items, these included feelings of dissociation, discontent, or hostility with regard to the community, work, individuals, or groups of individuals in the environment of the subject. The ratings showed high reliability coefficients with those of two other raters on the same material. (2) Intelligence tests were administered. (3) An attempt was made to discover on a limited method (a modification of the "Self-Organizing-Identical" method) the degree of feeling of difference or separation of the subject from their ideal and from their fellows. (4) Psychological ratings at the time of interview and (5) such sociological data as were available were compared for the two groups.

On the fifteen items sampling attitudes toward the community, individuals, groups, and [unclear] the ratings of respondents from their own [unclear] in the [unclear] [unclear]

repeating criminals greater political insurgency, stronger feelings of grievance, more antagonism toward authority, stronger hostility toward the father, and lack of integration with their ideal to a greater degree. No significant differences emerged in their degree of dissatisfaction with community or work, in tendencies to avoid groups or individuals, in antagonism toward mother, wife, or children, in intelligence, or in difference scores on the Self-Ordinary-Ideal test. On the sociological items considered, significant differences between the two groups appeared in the frequency with which parental friction was reported, in certain indices of economic status, and in the frequency with which they voted. All differences, even when small, were consistent in trend and were in the "expected" direction. Both groups showed wide dispersion.
(Summary by speaker)

Discussion: Brunswick, Fisher, T.Libbin, M.Leonard, F.Leonard, Timme, Deri, Simmel.

Dr.Simmel pointed out that punishment often starts repetition of crime; also increase of unconscious guilt tends to repeat crime till offender is punished. Criminal's attitude to his crime important.---- Crime can have symbolical meaning; offender avoids insanity by crime he commits.

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